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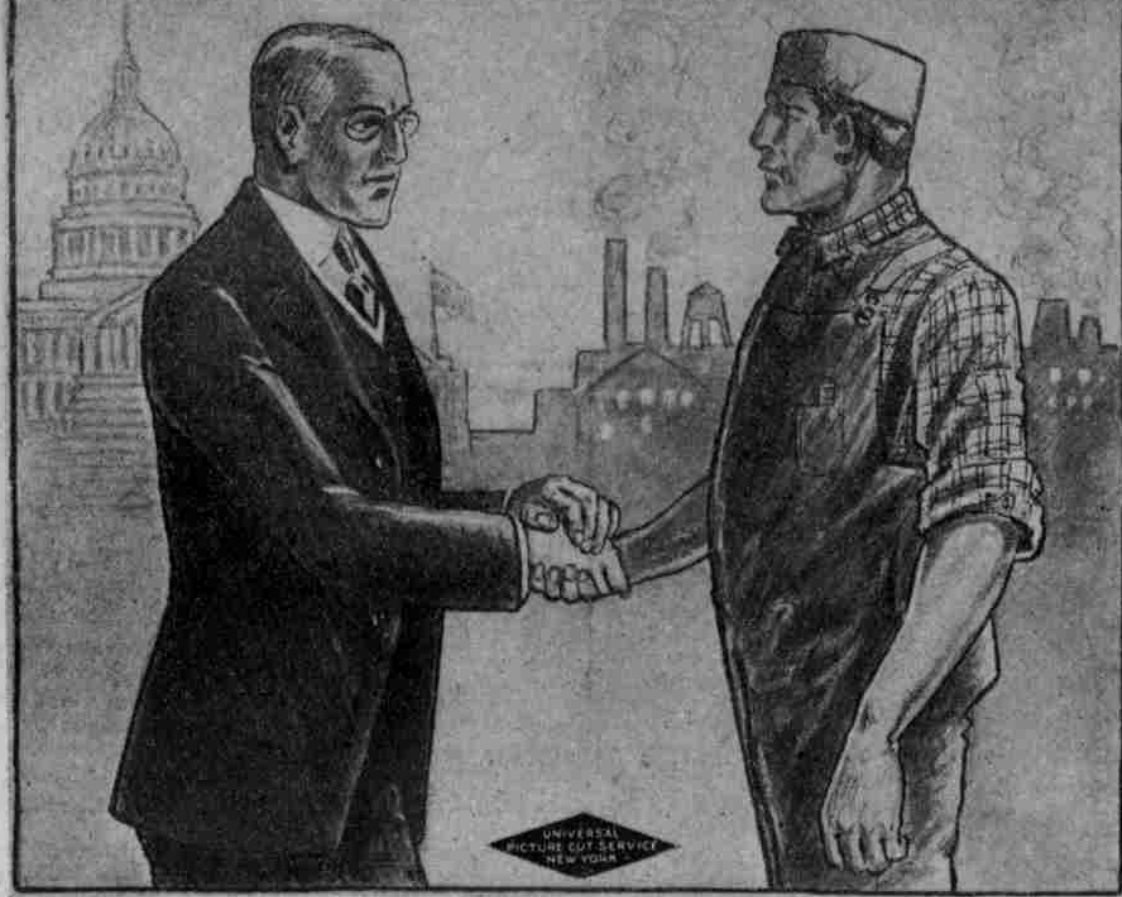
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CATHOLICS AND SUFFRAGE.

Now that New York has voted for suffrage we note that Catholic writers are taking the matter philosophically. This is as it should be. A writer in the Brooklyn Tablet observes:

"We have little fear for any change in the Catholic ideal of the home owing to suffrage for women. Motherhood and wifehood in Catholic circles are on too high a pinnacle to be upset just because mother or sister has the vote. The church, as her adviser on moral matters, will continue to hold up to woman the ideal home of Nazareth as their model."

"Voting once a year and active participation in the intrigue of a political party are very different things. The good sense of our Catholic womanhood is going to stand by her. She will hold sacred her right to the ballot and use it for the benefit of law, order and decency."

"Let her keep her name on the rolls and form a vast silent phalanx, which is ready to assert itself whenever called upon for public morality."

"Some see in the vote for women a vast increase in the power of the church for good in the community. The followers of the political game up to the present, among men, have not edified us by their high sense of morality or decency. As a rule their conduct of the State's politics were crude and selfish. Woman, yielding to moral and religious persuasion, will do much to clear the tainted name of American politics."

"We desire to see the advance of our Catholic women in their civil duties. We believe that a great opportunity has presented itself to them. Their safe and sane notions of decency, honor, purity and religion are much needed to counteract the growing evils of the day. Much good will come to the church through them. Women have always been with the church in her struggles for right and liberty. The wars and massacres of the world have been men's work. The best in man is stronger than in woman. Her gentle way will instill love and sentiment into a world that badly needs their beneficent influence."

"No matter what Catholic women may think of the agitation for suffrage, when the ballot has been thrust into their hands they must use it as a matter of duty and of conscience. It would be folly for them to leave the vast power of the suffrage to the forces that are opposed to religion and morality. The church is neither opposed to nor in favor of woman suffrage, because the church is not in politics. But the church can not be indifferent to the use of a power which has been placed in the hands of so many of her children. Upon Catholic voting women will depend the well or woe of religion in many States and even the welfare and safety of the country itself."

MILLIONS OF SOLDIERS.

With Russia's 15,000,000 soldiers out of the war, America must supply about 5,000,000 men. The latest statistics show that, on the side of the Allies, Great Britain's armies contain 7,000,000 men; France, 6,000,000; Italy, 2,500,000; Belgium, 250,000; Serbia, 300,000; Portugal, 200,000; total, 16,250,000. Among the Central powers Germany has sent to the conflict 9,000,000; Austria-Hungary, 7,000,000; Bulgaria, 500,000; Turkey, 2,000,000; total, 18,500,000. Congressman Caldwell, of New York, says:

"It will be a long war and a war to the bitter end. It may take from five to seven million men from America. It may cost from fifty to seventy million dollars. It probably will last from five to ten years, not from the beginning in 1914, but from the present moment."

INTERESTING COINCIDENCE.

A very interesting coincidence in connection with the recent conferring of the pallium on Most Rev. Dr. Dubig, Archbishop of Brisbane, Australia, was the fact that the presiding prelate at the ceremonies, Most Rev. Dr. Kelly, Archbishop of Sydney, was rector of the Irish College in Rome when Dr. Dubig was enrolled as a student there twenty-six years ago.

NEED MASS KITS.

Because of the fact that church facilities are so vitally necessary for the welfare of any camp, the Catholic Church Extension Society is once more appealing to the fathers, mothers and sisters who may have a son or brother now in training with Uncle Sam to come forward with their donations, no matter how small they may be, for the purchase of mass outfits that are still needed by army and navy chaplains. Mass

outfits for army and navy chaplains may be purchased for a donation of \$100. These outfits contain everything necessary for the celebration of the mass and are neatly packed in a lightweight, summary sized suitcase. Think it over and let us know if the preservation of your boy's faith isn't worth a little sacrifice on your part. Small and large donations will be cheerfully accepted by the Catholic Church Extension Society, whose offices are located at 750 McCormick building, Chicago, Ill.

CHRISTMAS IN IRELAND.

No Catholic country in the world has more beautiful Christmas customs than Ireland. Some of them, we are told, are no longer generally observed, but they are everywhere remembered and frequently recalled. In many places it is still the habit on Christmas eve for a man named Joseph and a woman named Mary to light a blessed candle in honor of the Infant Saviour, the Light of the World. During the holy night, as it is called, the Christ Child is supposed to wander abroad, and in thousands of Irish homes lighted candles are placed in the windows to guide his sacred feet, and the door is left ajar that during the twelve days—from Christmas to Epiphany—the gates of paradise remain open, and that any one who dies within this time is quickly admitted to the sight of God. Children born within the twelve days are especially dear, and are supposed to possess the gift of seeing beyond external objects and of hearing music not of the earth. It is thought that the guardian angel of every household becomes visible to one of its members between midnight and dawn on Christmas, but as the exact time of his appearance is unknown he is seldom seen. If the baby smiles in its sleep the angel has whispered to it of heaven.

RETROSPECTIVE.

Persons even a little past forty should be able to remember the American three-cent postage stamps which went out in 1883, but which, after thirty-four years, have come back through the exigencies of warfare. In 1883 special delivery stamps and picture postals were unknown. Few private houses had telephones, and the long distance telephone, as we have it today, was still undreamed of. Automobiles had not been heard of, and airships were the fancies of a poet. Invention has gone a long way in a comparatively short interval.

PRAYERS FOR VICTORY.

Thousands of Catholics in New York City ushered in Christmas at midnight mass at which there were offered prayers for victory to the nation's cause and peace. A military aspect was given the event by the presence of hundreds of soldiers in the congregations, who have been permitted to return home for the holidays.

A FAMOUS CHRISTMAS.

It was on Christmas day, 1776, that George Washington accomplished the famous crossing of the Delaware river. That night he attacked the British and Hessians at Trenton, the battle ending the next day with a glorious victory for the Colonial troops.

CHOICE PANCAKE RECIPE.

To one pint of sweet milk add one teaspoon sugar, one teaspoon salt, two cups of flour, two heaping teaspoons baking powder mixed in flour. Do not beat the batter. Stir just enough to mix in the flour. Put a spoonful of meat fryers on a good hot griddle; bake quickly.

FOR WOMAN'S EYE.

Braids are much worn this year. Gabardine is now a close second to serge. The black velvet knitting bags are the most effective. Leather buttons are a novelty that are decidedly attractive. The vogue for dress accessories in sets is just as persistent as ever. The taste for gingham, judged from the first displays, has not been curbed. For the young person's outdoor dress serge continues the prime choice.

The conservative length for the street skirt is from four to six inches from the floor. Tailored skirts and walking skirts are not more than one and three-quarter yards wide. The smartest frocks this season are of duvety or vicuna or suede cloth. These are very lightweight and warm.

No material seems to stand hard wear better than serge. The dark blue serge gown fills a place that the satin and taffeta models leave vacant.

RESTS ON FACTS.

"Christianity does not rest on day dreams; it rests on facts," said the Rev. Thomas J. O'Hern in one of his series of lectures at Elmwood Music Hall in Buffalo. He declared it is possible to possess an exact knowledge of these facts and that the greater part of those who assume to judge Christianity are unacquainted with them. "Faith and Facts" was his subject. Father O'Hern said in part:

"It is very unsettling and disconcerting to many that great and clever men of trained intellects have lost faith in God and immortality or in Christianity. One is apt to suspect that there are certain scientific facts known to these men incompatible with faith. The question then is this: Is faith lost through a knowledge of facts? The question is answered best by facing squarely concrete instances of unbelief. The representatives chosen are men of scientific and philosophical prominence. The fact assumption is that faith was found to be inconsistent with life-long research. You might readily imagine that Gibbons lost faith owing to his investigations into the origins of Christianity as recorded in the Decalogue and Fall. Not at all. It certainly was not historical research which made Gibbons give up his faith. How old do you think Gibbons was when he gave up his faith? The mature age of seven-teen!"

"Again, it might be supposed that Ernest Renan, the famous French infidel, lost faith in Christianity owing to his study of Semitic religions. Yet we find, if we can credit his own reminiscences, that before he ever encountered the facts on whose presentment his reputation is based he had ceased to believe. His own account shows us clearly that his loss of faith had nothing to do with scholarship. Let us now turn to Huxley, the scientific agnostic. His own statements prove that scientific faith persists not only without facts but in spite of them."

"Many smaller fry imitate Huxley in heartlessly robbing of their faith half-ignorant workmen or immature students. They put before them unverified hypotheses to which Greek names lend undesired authority. They lose their faith because they have given up faith in Christ and substituted therefor faith in some professor or writer of rationalistic claptrap. Charles Darwin lost his faith, but it was not due to facts encountered in scientific work. He tells us himself that he invented day dreams of new archaeological finds. We might make a similar analysis of the unbelief of Herbert Spencer, John Stuart Mill, George Eliot or any other well known unbeliever. We would find in every case that unbelief preceded the investigation of facts. No man loses his faith because of facts which do not harmonize with his faith, but because there is something wrong with themselves—they are blind."

MUST HAVE MILK.

An investigation into the effects of the increased price of milk has just been concluded in New York. It discloses the serious danger threatening the country on this score. Since the price of milk had risen to fourteen cents a quart it was found that more than half of the 2,200 families visited had substituted tea and coffee for milk. Yet in all of these families there were children under six years of age. Special attention is called by the Federal Children's Bureau to the imperative necessity of milk in the diet of babies and young children. Of the families in question 120 had given up milk entirely, although in twenty-five of these there were children under one year of age. Milk is the best food for children, and therefore the situation everywhere calls for serious deliberation.

CHURCH BURNED.

The Catholic Church of St. Stanislas de Kostka in Montreal, Can., recently completed at a cost of \$150,000, was destroyed by fire Wednesday. The loss is covered by insurance.

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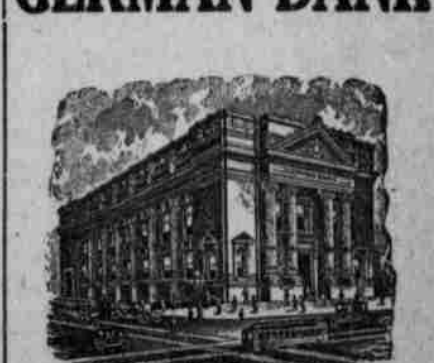
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